



BUSINESS DISTRICT

lakeshoreoakland.com

July 20, 2017

Assemblymember Rob Bonta

State Capitol, Room 2204

Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1479 (Bonta) - Public Records: Civil Penalties - OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED

Dear Assembly Member Bonta:

On behalf of the Lakeshore Business Improvement District, I am reluctantly writing to express our opposition to Assembly Bill 1479, unless amended. The bill would place additional burdens on private non-profits like the one I head that adheres to the California Public Records Act ("CPRA"). Additional amendments are needed to protect non-profit, community-based organizations who remain vulnerable to abuse of the CPRA.

The CPRA already provides legal remedies to requestors who feel there have been undue obstacles to transparency, but the responsibility of fulfilling these requests often falls on small teams that are stretched to their limits. For instance, our district is staffed only by one half time director. If individuals would seek to abuse the system, it could cause impossible demands on staff to respond and sap our fiscal resources-our entire budget is \$150,00 per year.

Creating a new incentive with a civil penalty provision would create an economic incentive for those that abuse CPRA to seek not only the penalty, but to also seek attorney's fees and court costs. This provision poses a serious threat to the viability of non-profit organizations such as ours.

Our property-based Improvement District, the first in Oakland, has a mission is to improve and enhance the economic climate of our neighborhood retail district. We

provide a wide range of services including maintenance, customer service, marketing, economic development, special events, and other enhanced services that provide the funding to bridge the gap between public and private sectors.

Our district is fully funded by its members, the property owners, and while we work closely with city and county representatives, we do not hold the same land use authority, do not issue permits, nor do we oversee the core public safety services provided by those public agencies. Our role is one of investment, promotion and revitalization within the urban core.

The Lakeshore BID fully supports transparency within local government and the need to ensure safe, livable communities throughout our state. However, we believe it is critical to clarify that as it is written today, AB 1479 will unfairly impact private non-profit organizations like ours.

Sincerely,

Pamela A Drake

Executive Director of the Lakeshore Avenue BID